



# CROSSROADS

M A G A Z I N E

AUTUMN 1994

VOL. 2, NO. 1

GAME  
DAY



# *Missouri Southern Alumni Association*

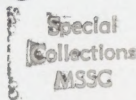
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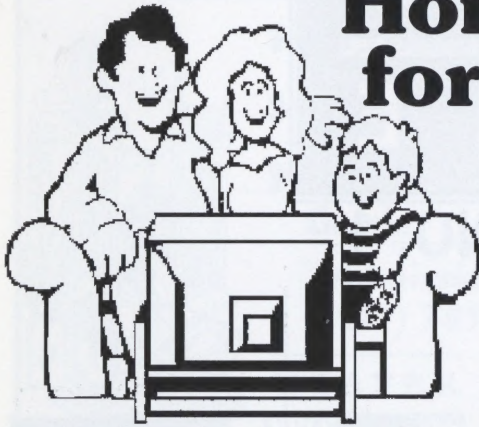
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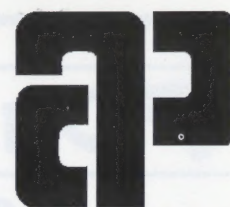


# CROSSROADS

## MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 1994

VOL. 2, NO. 1



associated  
collegiate  
press

# C O N T

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Crossroads: The Magazine is written, edited, and designed by students of the Communications 162 practicum course at Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, Mo. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the magazine, the adviser, or anyone involved with the Department of Communications or Missouri Southern State College. Address all correspondence to: Crossroads: The Magazine • 337 Webster Hall • Missouri Southern State College • 3950 East Newman Road • Joplin, Missouri 64801-1595. (417) 625-9596 or Fax (417) 625-9742.



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# ENTS

## GAME DAY

COVER  
STORY



•Behind the scenes of the biggest game of the year: The Miner's Bowl at Pittsburg, Kan.

PAGE 20

### ON THE COVER

Southern defensive back Tyrone Russell celebrates a big hit in the first half.

PHOTO BY CHAD HAYWORTH





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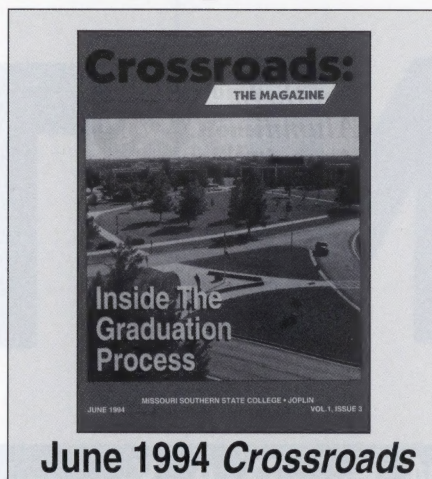
# Magazine improved, but...

## DEAR MR. SLATTON:

I have just been looking at the Crossroads, Vol. 1, Issue 3. You wrote in the Editor's Page that you put this magazine together in only one month.

Well, Son, you done good! (Ozark-speak intended.) I enjoyed the coverage of the spring sports with the records printed. The articles on Dr. Smith and Dr. Conboy were excellent. What a tribute, and how I will enjoy remembering these outstanding people when I look at this in 20 years or so.

The Hammons Program article was quite interesting, and it should be fun to look at the magazine in 10 years and see which kids stayed with the program. (Perhaps a "Where are they now?" article at that time.)



I also liked the "current event" articles—the dental hygiene bequest, Rod Smith's bid for the big-time, the Hailey suit, and others.

My only complaint is that more

of the photos weren't identified—especially the ones taken by Mr. Meacham at commencement. (In 20 years, will I remember that was Dr. Messick, and why was Dr. Leon shaking his hand?) Who is the graduate with his proud family on page 21? That picture speaks volumes! I would have liked to have seen a date on the eclipse photo, but I guess I can just remember it happened in '94.

The only suggestion I would like to make is: as you work on future issues, remember that "yearbooks" are memory books, and memories fade over the years; captions will be helpful in jogging the faded memories then.

Again, this was a job well done. I'll mail this to a former student and take one home. I like it!

**NAME WITHHELD.**

# Have an opinion?

Write a letter to the **CROSSROADS** editors



Letters must be signed for verification purposes.



# CROSSROADS

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## MAGAZINE

### Article 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

B E C A U S E  
W E  
C A R E





# Lead To Follow

By Chad Hayworth

## Prove me wrong. Please.

**H**oo boy. Here we go again. Let's cut right to the chase. Come election day, Missouri voters are going to pass amendment 7,

better known as Hancock II.

It's a done deal.

Finished.

Complete.

It pains me to say it, but I'm afraid it is going to be true. Missouri voters are going to be duped into believing they are retaking control of their government, when in fact they are simply pulling the lever that throws open the gallows door, hanging an already weak higher education system.

New rumors spread each day as the election draws near: If the issue passes, the College will be closed. If the College is closed, the state will convert it into a prison. Even if the College isn't closed, half the staff will be fired and tuition will jump through the roof.

I've heard them all, and guess what? They scare the bejeezus out of me. Even if only, say, half of them come to fruition.

In his defense, the bill's namesake, U.S. Rep. Mel Hancock (R-Springfield), says no schools will be closed. All the bill is designed to do is allow voters to decide on any future tax increases, he says.

Right. Whatever you say.

Many lawyers across the state have said the bill will indeed cause a massive reduction in state services in the next fiscal year, including the virtual decimation of the state's higher education budget.

Consider this: If Southern consistently ranks last in appropriations anyway, why

wouldn't it be the first to go?

College President Julio Leon submitted a contingency plan to the Board of Regents in September. If the measure indeed passes, tuition could increase by as much

“

**I've heard them all, and guess what? They scare the bejeezus out of me. Even if only, say, half of them come to fruition.**

”

as 51 percent, or 124 faculty and staff members would be fired, or the School of Technology and the departments of communications, English, social sciences, and theater would be eliminated.

Maybe the only positive aspect of the whole mess is that it will no doubt force students like me, who have about 15 hours to take to

graduate, to hurry the heck up and get out of Missouri post haste.

The real problem with the Hancock II amendment is that it is so vaguely written that no one is actually knows what will happen. Hancock has said he will personally fight to repeal his Frankenstein amendment if any schools are closed.

However, for a lot of us around the state, it will be a matter of too little, too late.

My question for Hancock and all of the amendment's supporters is a simple one. Why, if indeed this is such a good idea, is everyone from the head of the Missouri Highway Patrol to Republican Senator John Danforth condemning it? Could it possibly be that if the thing passes it will hamstring every agency and service this state has to offer? I think so.

I know I probably shouldn't act so sure the amendment will pass, but I am. And I can prove why.

Remember a few years back when every bigwig in higher education got out and stumped and pushed for Proposition B? (Prop B, if you don't remember, would have pumped a ton of money into education throughout the state.)

Proposition B got clobbered. It won a majority of votes in one, count 'em ONE, county in the state. Enough said.

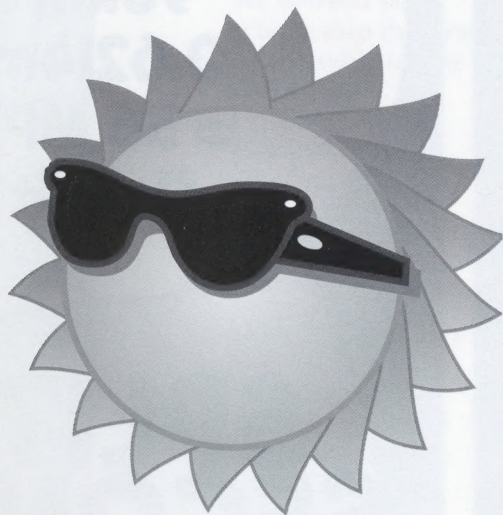
I hope and pray the voters of Missouri show some intelligence and the ability to see the "big picture." But I know better.

At any rate, come Nov. 8, I hope Hancock II goes down in flames, and I'm proven wrong.

Please.



# **YOUR MESSAGE HERE**



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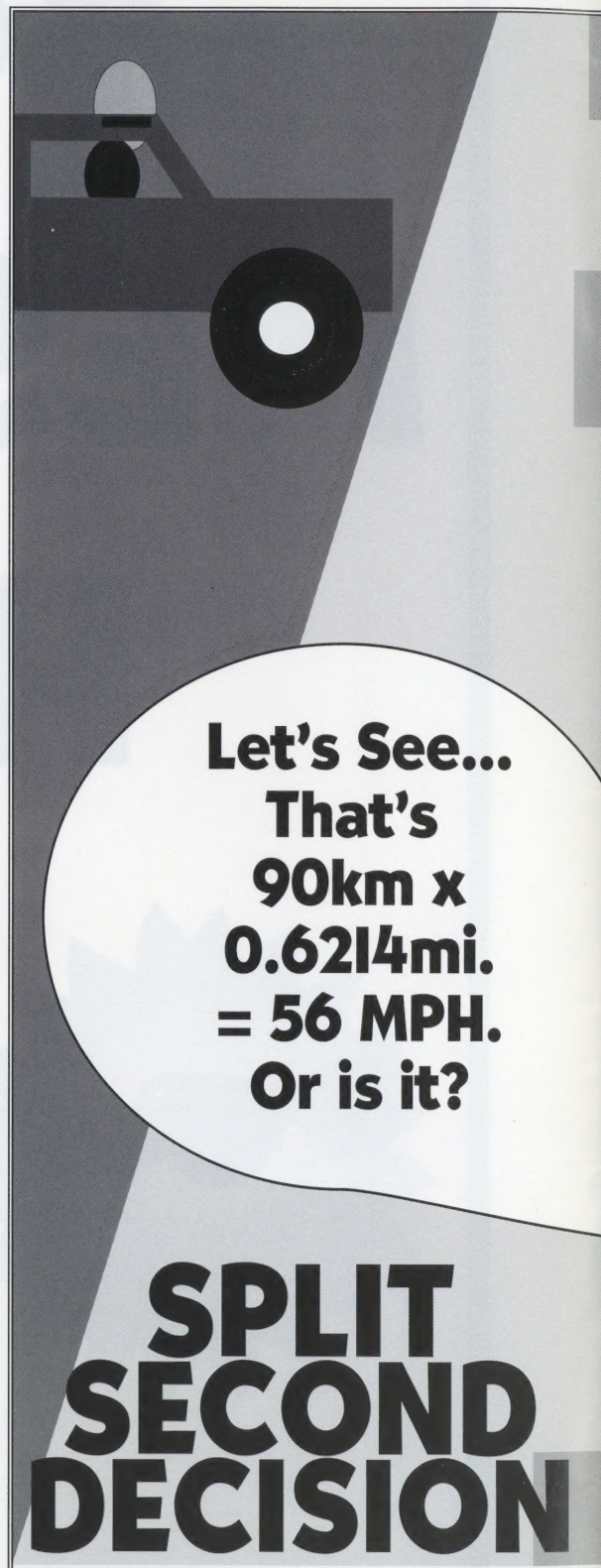
**MAGAZINE**

**625-9596**



# HOW FAST IS

**BY 1996,**




**Let's See...  
That's  
90km x  
0.6214mi.  
= 56 MPH.  
Or is it?**

**SPLIT  
SECOND  
DECISION**

**ON ITS**



# THE METRIC SYSTEM IS



**SPEED  
LIMIT  
90  
km/h**

# W

hile the rest of the nation waffles on converting road signs to the metric system, one community in Missouri has taken the first step toward global conformity. St. Peters, a suburb of St. Louis, has erected six signs which read "Speed Limit 60 km/h" on a

recently completed street and more are planned for another new street.

Dale Houdeshell, manager of the public works service group of St. Peters, said the city started contemplating the conversion in 1993.

"Our community has long been pro-active—out in front, so to speak," Houdeshell said. "We were going to have to erect new signs, anyway so we decided to help get our residents used to the new system."

Currently, the city is not replacing existing signs with metric signs.

"Originally, there were a number of people who resisted the signs," Houdeshell said, "but recently there has not been much reaction. We put information about the conversion in the local newsletter when we started."

He said there is no evidence motorists are confused by the signs. Speed studies conducted by the city show little or no increase in the average speed on the road with metric signs.

St. Peters resident Anne Benne said she has had no problem with the signs.

"It's kind of confusing at first when you see a speed sign that says 60 kilometers per hour and you look at your speedometer and it says 35 miles per hour," Benne said. "It takes some getting used to but it's not that bad."

Public resistance to a federal mandate requiring states to convert road signs to metric has been much stiffer. The Federal Highway Administration announced in June it was putting off mandating the change until at least 1996.

According to the June 27 issue of the Federal

**B Y J O H N H A C K E R**

# WAY TO A ROAD NEAR YOU



# "I'VE BEEN TO EUROPE AND

Register responses from the general public to a survey conducted by the FHWA early in 1994, showed overwhelming resistance to metric highway signs.

Of 2,592 responses from the public, 2,228 were opposed to the signs. The number opposed includes a petition from citizens of Kansas which had 820 signatures.

Public resistance has translated into congressional resistance. In its 1994 highway appropriation legislation, Congress specifically prohibited FHWA from using federal funds to install metric road signs.

"In consideration of the docket responses, the current statutory prohibition, and a possible future Congressional restrictions on using federal funds for metric signs, the FHWA will not require the implementation of metric sign legends until at least after 1996," the article said. "Before any nationally directed conversion to metric highway signs is implemented, the agency will conduct a strong public education program and will consider other appropriate measures to assure that such a conversion would be as smooth as possible."

Karen Whitney, public relations specialist with the FHWA, said metric highway signs will eventually be mandated.

"It's something that goes back to the days of [Thomas] Jefferson," Whitney said. "It has to do with competitiveness. If you look in the grocery stores and other places, the metric system is here. The highway signs are just one specific issue."

State officials are already dealing with the metric system. FHWA has mandated that all planning for road and other projects which use federal funds be done in metric.

Eric Foster, senior design technician with the Missouri



Department of Highways and Transportation, is a member of a team working to change the state's procedures to incorporate the metric system.

"Some of the projects we work on take five to 10 years to complete," Foster said. "Some of the newer projects we are starting will be planned and built in metric. Some projects are far enough along to prohibit conversion."

Locally, Joplin officials say they will wait for the federal mandate before moving with the signs.

"We're basically waiting and seeing at this point," said David Hertzberg, civil engineer for the city of Joplin. "We have a tentative schedule but we are waiting for implementation [of the mandate]."

Hertzberg said approximately 200 signs will be involved at a cost of \$50 per sign.

While metric road signs are

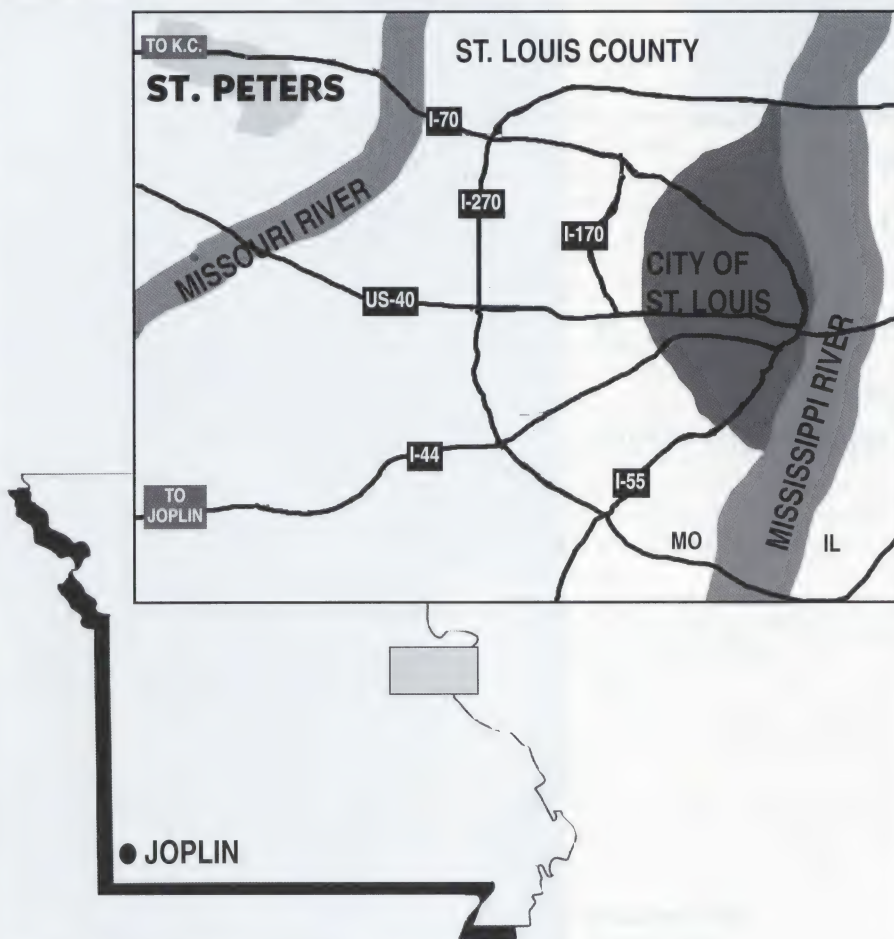
## JUST START THINKING IN



# AFTER A LITTLE WHILE YOU



PHOTO BY CHAD HAYWORTH. GRAPHIC BY JEFFREY SLATTON



Six road signs like this one have already been erected in St. Peters, Mo,

receiving a cold reception from the American public, the metric system is pushing its way into daily life in other ways.

Bob Beeler, Missouri Southern's physical plant director, said he is seeing the metric system more and more in many ways.

"When we are purchasing parts and equipment we are seeing the measures in metric," Beeler said. "We have had to add to our supply of tools because of it."

From an engineering standpoint, the metric system is much easier to deal with, Beeler said.

"For example, a cubic centimeter of water weighs one gram," he said. "This gives you two ways to measure volume. It's much easier to deal in calories than in British Thermal Units (BTUs) for heat."

Beeler said surveyors had come up with their own way to deal with the complexities of the English system.

"[Surveyors] went to using feet and tenths of feet to measure distances," he said. "Inches are simply too clumsy for them to deal with."

Beeler said he doesn't think converting the public will be as hard

as some people think.

"I've been to Europe and after a little while you just start thinking in kilometers-per-hour," he said. "It's just not that painful."

Megan DeCarlo, freshman pre-veterinary medicine major, agreed with Beeler.

"When I went to Japan it didn't take me long to adjust," DeCarlo said. "You just look down at the speedometer."

Shawnda Butler, senior elementary education major, said she thought it would be too expensive to convert.

"Most people don't know how to use the metric system," Butler said. "The cost would be too high."

## KILOMETERS-PER-HOUR."





**B Y  
D R .  
J I M  
S A N D R I N**

Education  
Department Head



Erin Ray visits  
with a friend  
before  
her death.

## Erin Ray was enthusiastic

**W**hen I first met Erin Ray in the middle 1970s she was an elementary principal of a somewhat low-achieving school. Within two years, her school had some of the highest test scores in math and reading with the school system.

That was Erin Ray. She was never satisfied with mediocrity. I was highly impressed with her enthusiasm, zest, and passion for teaching and learning. There was just no way that she would allow her charges to be anything

but the best. She encouraged her teaching staff to individualize and seek student success and high achievement.

When she moved to Southern, after years in the public schools, she never lost her sense of enthusiasm, zest, and passion for teaching and learning. She brought it to higher education and was a positive role model for her students. She truly led by example.

Erin was in the true sense, a master teacher. She always had time for her students. She participated in departmental and cam-

“  
(Erin Ray) was  
full of life and  
laughter and  
passed it on to  
her students  
and colleagues.

Dr. Jim Sandrin

”





## ERIN RAY PROFILE

(August 27, 1994) — G. Erin Ray, 62, a 15-year member of Missouri Southern's education faculty has died after a four-month battle with cancer. Ray, who was an assistant professor of education, died at 11 p.m. August 27

- Director, Southern's Plus, a summer educational program for students in the third through eighth grades.
- Master's Degree in education in 1970 from Southwest Missouri State University.
- Post-graduate work from 1973 to 1979 at Drury College, SMSU, Southern, University of Wisconsin, Pittsburg State University, and Loyola University.
- Listed in 1975 edition of *Who's Who Among Missouri Educators*.
- Former president of Phi Delta Kappa, the educational fraternity.
- She is survived by her husband Ed, whom she married in 1952.



PHOTO COURTESY Dr. ESBER SHAHEEN

Erin Ray visits with Neal Bush, son of former President George Bush, before her death.

pus committees and gave freely of her time. She was an unselfish person who was caring and involved. You always knew where she stood. She was an intellectual with great common sense.

She was full of life and laughter and passed it on to her students and colleagues. William James once said this about life, "The best use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts life." And in a sense, her love of life was indeed passed on to her students and friends.

Erin was involved in many college activities. One activity in which she was immensely proud and continued to speak about was her trip to Russia a short time ago. The trip to Russia and what she experienced and witnessed, however, was not her primary theme. What she really wanted

to tell the world and all who would listen was the American-Russian Study in which she participated. American students, when compared to equivalent Russian students, outscored their Russian counterparts on every facet of an academic test, which was authored by the Russians.

She always related with zeal how great our American kids were in the "Russian Study." I can still hear her saying, with enthusiasm, that American teachers must have been doing something right!

Erin was an enthusiastic person and teacher. She was a model to emulate. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said of enthusiasm, "Nothing great was ever achieved without it." Erin Ray was a genuine and great teacher. She achieved much during her too short stay with us. We will miss you.

“ Erin was an enthusiastic person and teacher. Ralph Waldo Emerson one said of enthusiasm, ‘No thing great was ever achieved without it.’

Dr. Jim Sandrin





# 'I'm Outta Here.'

BY HEIDI WEAVER

**K**ristin Onstott decided she needed to get away for awhile—so she crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Sweden.

She was one of the ten students selected to travel to Sweden last summer for seven weeks to attend a water color class and a Scandinavian Art History class at Folkhogskola school.

"I was sick of the area and the people around here, so going home to Lamar and living with my parents just wasn't going to cut it," Onstott said. "I decided this would be a great experience and a chance for me to get away and experience a new culture."

The trip began with a stop for a couple of days in Denmark, so they could see the sights and recover from jet-lag.

"Denmark was one of the best places we went, it was so upbeat," Onstott said. "There were people everywhere all the time. It was like

they didn't have jobs."

The students then traveled to Sweden where they would spend most of their trip.

"It rained the first two weeks and we thought we were in hell," she said. "When it cleared up everything was so beautiful."

The students traveled to several Swedish museums and attractions while they were there. Onstott said it was an experience she would never forget.

"Things that we had studied and had seen in books were right there when we went to the museums," Onstott said. "It was a hands-on experience."

One of Onstott's favorite sites was the Carlsburg museum in Copenhagen, Denmark, which houses some of Rodin's sculptures.

"We had always seen these in books and there they were," she said. "I could just reach out and touch them. It was really bizarre."

The trip wasn't all class and museums. The group did find a place to relax, a pizzeria called

Karl's Krog.

"They got to know us really well, so when we walked in they would put in a tape with American music on it like 'YMCA,'" she said. "We would just sit there all night."

The people in the town they stayed in were really laid back, Onstott said. Unfortunately, there wasn't much night life, she said.

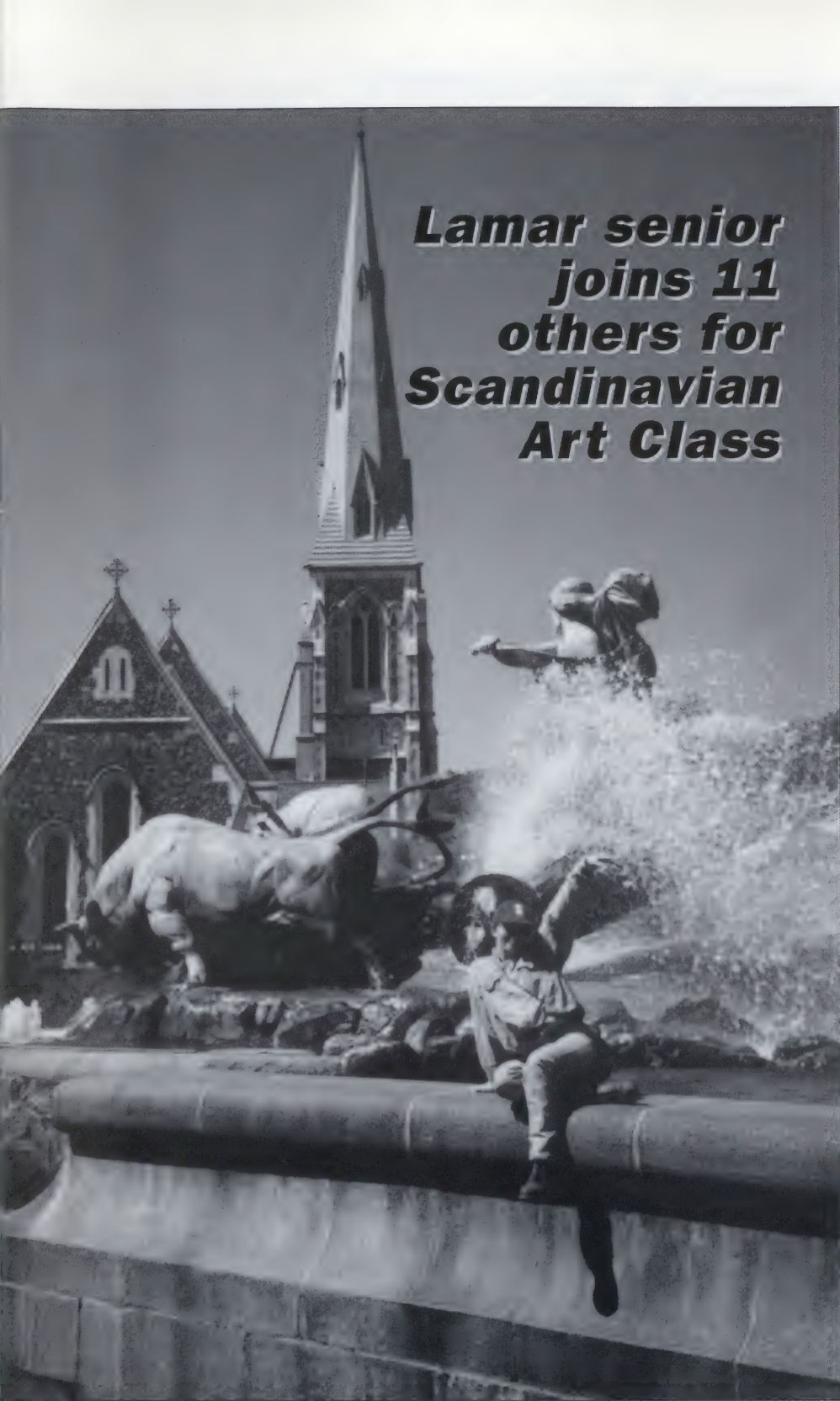
"In Denmark, you could walk down the street with a beer, but the town we stayed in in Sweden, you would be considered an alcoholic," she said.

The group initially had trouble with learning the train schedule, which hampered their exploration of the cities.

"You could not really go anywhere at night, because if the train stopped at midnight you had to be on it or you had no way to get back," she said. "When we figured out how to read the train schedule it got a little easier."

On their last weekend in Sweden, Onstott and Jeff Callison,





## **Lamar senior joins 11 others for Scandinavian Art Class**

Missouri Southern senior Kristen Onstott poses in front of a fountain in Denmark last summer. Onstott was one of ten students who traveled throughout scandinavia as part of program sponsored by the College's art department.

a graduate of Southern, decided to explore more of Europe. They took a 22-hour train trip to Holland to get a chance to understand more about the actual cities and people without a strict schedule to abide by.

"It was kind of like a breath of fresh air for the end of our trip," she said. "We knew there were

things we wanted to see, we just weren't pressed to see them."

On the train, Onstott and Callison got a chance to meet some of the locals. They met one girl who informed them of must-see sites in Amsterdam.

"We got to understand more about the actual cities; what clubs to go to in Amsterdam and what streets not to walk down," Onstott said. "It was just interesting to talk about everyday things and not just statistics."

When they arrived in Holland, Onstott said she was really scared until they found a map and a hotel.

"We had learned how to say things in Swedish like 'where is the train station', 'thank you', and 'please'," she said. "Now we were in a different country where they spoke Dutch."

During the day they spent most of their time shopping, drinking coffee, and people watching.

"We kind of soaked up the culture," Onstott said. "We watched what everybody did and then we did it."

The trip was supervised by Jim Bray, head of the art department and Jon Fowler, associate professor of art.

"I had taken groups over there before," Bray said. "They [Swedes] speak English when they are around us. They are the greatest hosts in the world."

The students were selected by the quality of an extensive portfolio, grade-point average, and an interview evaluation. Scholarships were awarded to the selected students from Katherine Hyde charitable trust fund to help finance the trip.

"We had to decide who would be a good representation of the college," Bray said.

Onstott came to Southern after spending one year at Southwest Missouri State University where she started a major in English.

"When I came to Southern I didn't want to major in English, so my mom suggested that I take an art class. I took one art class one semester and then the next semester I took all art classes," she said. "I kind of dove in head first and I have never regretted it."



# Taking The

# plunge

Getting involved in campus organizations is easy

BY TRICIA HILSABECK

**I**'d like to become more involved, but I just don't know how."

If this statement typifies you, your best bet is to take the plunge and jump right in.

It doesn't matter if you are a freshman or seasoned upperclassman, it is always beneficial to get involved. Along with finding other students that have common interests, involvement can provide leadership skills and lengthen your resume.

"Later on (students) find that when they are in the job market, an employer would rather see a student with a 3.0 [GPA] and group activities than a 4.0 with no activities," said Val Carlisle, coordinator of student activities.

The first step to getting involved is to determine what your interests are. Missouri Southern offers a wide variety of organizations. There are departmental groups, honors fraternities, Student Senate, Campus Activities Board, religious organizations, special interest and service organizations, and Greek life to name a few.

But, where to go?

There are eight religious organizations on campus. These groups are affiliated through the different church denominations.

"We offer a variety of exciting ministry opportunities just for you," said Victor Ball, Baptist Student Union director. "As a past college student, I can remember just how important BSU was in my life."

Those looking for nightlife and social events might consider fraternities and sororities. Although no Greek houses currently exist near campus, several fraternities and

sororities maintain active status on the Missouri Southern campus.

"Joining a sorority is a great way to meet people," said Timma Medly, Psychology major. "The

system is a little different here because we don't have houses but, it's Southern, and it's still Greek. It's fun."

Other special interest groups on campus include The Black Collegians, College Republicans, Young Democrats, the Saddle Club,



Kappa Alpha alumni Scott Simms hands off to senior Brian Wagoner just outside of Joplin. Each year the fraternity runs a football between Joplin and Pittsburg for charity.

JOHN HACKER



and many more.

"Student just need to look at the bulletin boards, Carlisle said. "I know they don't want to; they're overwhelmed, but that's where they will find a lot of the information."

As for Honors Fraternities, some are major related and some more generalized. Alpha Epsilon Rho is the National Broadcasting fraternity, while Phi Beta Lambda is non-profit organization for students preparing for employment in the field of business. Many of these groups exist across campus. Interested persons should contract the specific departmental secretary for more information.

One organization probably most visible across campus is the Student Senate. Senators are chosen by campus wide vote in the fall semester. Campus Activities Board is also a visible group on campus. The only prerequisite for joining CAB is to show up at the regular meetings. All students have already paid dues to CAB through student fees.

"We want their ideas because we have their money," Carlisle said. "We have \$9.20 out of their pocket and our job is to get it back to them."

The most difficult aspect of becoming involved is taking that first step. The best advice about how to get through the first awkward moments of organizational meetings comes from Carlisle.

"Grit your teeth, inhale, and just walk in the door," she said.

# CAR BASH

**Saturday, October 29**

**3 Swings  
for a  
dollar**

**11am to 1pm**

PLUS A  
**"Master of Disaster"**  
COMPETITION

SPONSORED BY  
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# CROSSROADS

M A G A Z I N E

**...Because  
Lightning  
Never Strikes  
The Same  
Place Twice**





# Back to the *future*

## Planning for tomorrow not so simple, Leon says

BY CHAD HAYWORTH

**I**n higher education, planning for the long-term future isn't what it used to be. Just ask College President Julio Leon. "I don't think anyone can see 25 years into the future," Leon said. "In a sense, what happens 25 years from now is framed by what happens today."

Given today's political and social climate, even knowing what tomorrow will bring is often uncertain.

"You deal with it the best that you can," he said. "There is just no way to be proactive today."

"You don't control the amount of resources that come into you."

However, things weren't always this way, Leon said. In fact, long range master plans were standard operating procedure until just a few years ago. One such master plan still hangs in the

Suckers Flat Mine Room in the Billingsly Student Center.

"That master plan was what they saw for the future from the perspective of the 1960s," Leon said. "At that time we were in the midst of one of the best times for higher education in terms of rapid enrollments and rapid increases in fundage. The baby boomers had to have a place to go to college and the money was there."

Today, Leon said, two key factors prevail: quality and cost.

"The concept of doing more with less will likely continue," he said. "And it doesn't lend itself to putting in another master plan for the next 25 years."

Even the uncertainty of changing technology makes foreseeing the needs of future students impractical, Leon said.

"There is still a lot we don't know about the information

superhighway," he said. "For instance, who is going to control it? The cable companies or the phone companies? They are fighting it out right now."

"For all we know, 10 or 15 years from now, college students will learn at home sitting in front of their televisions or computer screens."

Being a relatively small institution is both detriment and a advantage to Southern's future, Leon said.

"The big ship is always harder to steer," he said. "At the smaller school, you are usually more nimble and adept to change."

"The big universities are harder move in new directions, but they do have more respect and they attract more resources that small schools don't. There are far more MU grads in the state legislature than there are Missouri Southern





JOHN HACKER

The first stages of construction of the Student Life Center began in early October. The facility is expected to open in Fall 1995.

grads."

One area a small school is at a definite disadvantage, Leon said, is generating revenue for physical expansion.

"Take for instance, a 30,000 student campus, and use an arena as an example," he said. "If a large school needs to build a \$20-30 million arena, they can almost afford to do it themselves by asking the students to contribute. At Southern, we just don't have the students to support that."

The College is currently working on a couple of expansion projects, said John Tiede, senior vice president. Ground was broken earlier this semester on phase one of the Student Life Center and plans are currently in the works to expand the Justice Center.

One concern Southern will have to face in the future is the lack of space for expansion south of Newman Road and west of Duquesne Road. Tiede said there were some space for expansion, but it was limited.

"There is that area between Young Gymnasium and Hearnes Hall," he said. "Or the area between

the Mansion and the BSC. Or even the hillside behind Kuhn Hall."

The College can't build on the land to the south of Spiva Library because it lies in a flood plain, Tiede said. Southern does own about 35 acres on the northeast corner of Newman and Duquesne, but expansion there is unlikely in the near future, Tiede said.

"I would envision that as the last place we would go," he said.

Rather than concentrating on attracting more students with expanded facilities, Leon said Southern should continue to stress the quality of education.

"What will distinguish colleges in the future is what happens between the faculty and students in the classroom," he said. "Every college and university in the country talks about quality and excellence and the pursuit of those things. But in reality, most of them aren't excellent, or in some cases, even good."

Leon said Southern's current faculty is certainly good enough to continue to attract an increasing number of students.

"My vision for the College is for it to continue to be as good as it is

today, with a faculty that is dedicated to the classroom and to helping the student," he said. "I hope we never lose sight of that, no matter if we have 5,000 students or 10,000 student, or if we are a college or a university."

With the potential financial disaster that looms with the Hancock II amendment, Leon said the way the general public views higher education has changed.

"Higher education used to be a public good," he said. "But today, it has started to move toward a private good. Look at financial aid. It has gone from grants to loans."

"A college graduate today has almost always graduated with a mortgage on his future and that is a debt he or she has to service for a long time."

Leon said many of those clamoring for changes in governmental funding have forgotten where they got once got their own educations.

"Many of those who complain now are those who went to school in the years following World War II on a public grant like the G.I. Bill," he said. "They can say it is different, but it was still government aid."



It's easy to say  
from the comfort  
and safety of the  
stands, 'it's only  
football.'

But until you  
strap on the pads  
and step on the  
field, you haven't  
experienced ...

# GAMM

Missouri Southern  
fans Adam  
Simmons, Jason  
Perrin, and Keith  
Robinson cheer as  
the Lions jumped  
out to a 14-0 lead  
in the first half at  
Pittsburg State  
University.







Gus the Gorilla watches over "The Jungle," Carnegie Smith Field/Brandenberg Stadium, just minutes before the 1994 Miner's Bowl kickoff.

JEFFREY SLATTON

# FRIDAY

BY CHAD HAYWORTH AND JEFFREY SLATTON

**J**on Lantz stood to face the crowd of expectant, pizza sauce-covered faces. At noon on most Fridays of the football season, Lantz is the guest of honor at the Lionbacker's luncheon at Joplin's Pizza By Stout. The group gathers to gorge themselves on pizza and hear the coach's outlook on the week's game.

Only this week it's not just a game. It's THE game.

Missouri Southern at Pittsburg State University.

It is no exaggeration to call the annual Miner's Bowl the one must-win game of the season for both sides of the equation. The first question asked of Lantz when he interviewed for the Southern job in 1988 was how long it would take to beat Pitt State.

In 1993, Southern beat PSU 20-3 in Joplin, the Lions only Miner's Bowl victory in the trophy's nine-year history.

"Looking back at those past games, it's no wonder Pittsburg State used to beat us," Lantz told the crowd. "They had five or six guys on those teams that are currently in the National Football League. That's impressive. But, that's changed.

"Those guys are gone, and now we feel



"like they no longer have better players than us. We feel like we can win the game Saturday and we will go to Pittsburg with that attitude."

Last year's game, which propelled Southern to their first-ever MIAA title, was also the first loss in MIAA play for the Gorillas, since PSU joined the league in 1989, a fact the Gorillas have not forgotten.

"I see the Pittsburg players on the television every night talking about revenge and taking back what is theirs," Lantz said. "Well, I've got news for them. The MIAA trophy doesn't belong at any one conference school. You have to earn it, and they will have to earn it."

But winning this year will be no easy task for Lantz and the Lions. PSU hasn't lost a home game since 1984, the year after Southern beat them there the last time.

"They like to call their place 'the Jungle,'" Lantz said. "They play loud music and do all of that stuff to get themselves ready to play."

"We don't have a 50-foot-tall monkey at our field and we never will. All of those things provide distractions for the opposing players when they go to Pittsburg."

**FRIDAY 2:20 PM** The Lions run through a brief practice, making sure everyone knows their assignment for the next day's game.

After the practice, Lantz gathers the team at the 50-yard line at Hughes Stadium.

"When the TV crews interview you after the game tomorrow don't act surprised that we won the game," Lantz tells the team. "Last year, I think some of you were surprised that we won the game and it showed on TV."

"Expect to win this year. After we do, tell the TV people that you expected to win."

Perhaps if the implications of the Pittsburg State-Missouri Southern border war can be embodied in one person, it is Cedric Florence.

Florence, the 6-foot-2, 189-pound, senior defensive back, is the first recruit Lantz ever won away from PSU. Lantz said PSU warned Florence not to attend Southern, because the Lions would never be winners. Florence has proven to be a threat on both sides of the ball. As a sophomore, he started for both the offense and the defense. That year he led an injury-riddled team in receptions.

Last season, Florence was a second-team All-America selection after tying for sixth place nationally in interceptions. It is players like Florence that even out the talent level between the schools, Lantz said.

Lantz dismisses the team, reminding them of their 11 p.m. curfew, which he strictly enforces.

**"WHEN I READ SCORES OF HIGH SCHOOL GAMES OR ANY GAMES PLAYED LAST NIGHT, IT KINDA MAKES ME NERVOUS," JON LANTZ**

"I will not check up on anyone," Lantz said. "But in light of the events of the past two weeks, I can assure that anyone who violates this will be dealt with harshly."

**GAME DAY 5:30 AM** Lantz crawls out bed, about two and half hours later than



CHAD HAYWORTH

normal. He slept nine solid hours, an abnormality for the night before a game.

Today is the one day a week Lantz avoids the newspaper and the television.

"When I read scores of high school games or any games played last night, it kinda makes me nervous," he said.

Lantz heads out the door, fulfilling another of his game day rituals: He becomes one with his lawn. Sophomore place kicker Eric Jackson is getting





(Above) Kappa Alpha president Chris Legg snaps the ball from the 50-yard line of Hughes Stadium, starting the group's 30-mile run from Joplin to Pittsburg.

(Left) Southern head coach Jon Lantz trims his yard to avoid thinking about tonight's Miner's Bowl game against Pittsburg State.

(Right) About halfway through the trek to Pittsburg, one Kappa Alpha continues to trudge along Highway 171.



up about this time, too. While Jackson is a first-year player at Southern, he knows all about the rivalry. Jackson, 5-foot-10, 172 pounds, transferred from Northeast Oklahoma A&M to boost what was arguably the weakest aspect of the Lions' game.

Unlike Lantz, Jackson parks himself in front of the TV for most of the morning.

"I watched both the Pitt State and Missouri Southern coaches shows," he said. "I try to focus on

the game. Usually what I like to do is watch other teams play and other kickers kick. It gets me pumped up and excited about the game."

**GAME DAY**  
**10:00 AM** Florence gets up, channel surfs for a while and takes a shopping excursion to Wal-Mart.

Florence, like Jackson, attended a high school football game on Friday night.

"I went to see my high school team play," he said. "Some of the

guys from my school that go to Pitt State now were talking a lot of trash. I'm thinking about that a little."

**GAME DAY**  
**11:30 AM** After a thorough mowing, the edges of the Lantz family yard is getting a final trim. Lantz tries avoid thinking about the impending game.

"I try to keep my mind off of it and think about grass and trimming and stuff like that," he said. "It's especially tough on night games. If this was a 1:30 kickoff, I'd already be up at school."

The wait, Lantz said, is worse than the game.

"I don't mean to melodramatize it, but it's kinda like going into battle," he said. "Once the battle starts, you're cool, you're calm, you're thinking and you're in control."

Lantz hasn't figured out how to make time tick any faster, so he fills his time with yard work.

"You do stuff you can control," he said. "So, I'm controlling this yard."

"When you are a control freak, it is tough. But, the yard looks nice."

Unlike most of his players, Lantz is visibly on edge.

"When I see the players at two, they will be relaxed and smiling and joking," he said. "It's hard for me to relate to that, but I was like that once."

"Maybe it's because I'm a better coach than I was a player. This is my livelihood, though, and they (players) will go on to something else after a couple of years."

Lantz carries the burden of responsibility for the entire program, and it's times like these when the weight gets heavy to bear.

"It all comes back to you, good or bad," he said. "You get six kids in a bar room brawl, that comes back to you. The outcome of the game comes back to you."

"It's not just me, but I get a lot of the credit or a lot of the blame either way."

To Lantz, game day is quiet day, but he can't completely keep his mind from wandering to tonight's game.

"Every once in a while something will pop up like, 'What will we do on third and three?' that kind of thing," he said. "But you try to stay away from it as much as I can."

JOHN HACKER

CHAD HAYWORTH





Southern trainer Marty Conklin performs one of many game day duties, removing stitches.



Missouri Southern players arrive to check out the turf at

## GAME DAY Noon

Members of the Kappa Alpha fraternity begin to gather at the Hughes Stadium on the Southern campus. They will run a football about 30 miles, from the 50-yard line to Carnie Smith Stadium/ Brandenburg Field in Pittsburg.

"We've been doing this since 1973, when the first chapter on campus started doing it," KA president Chris Legg said. "Everybody has to have their traditions, and this is our little thing."

## GAME DAY 12:30 PM

Paul Lantz, the coach's 12-year-old son has a soccer game. Jon Lantz is on the sidelines, watching his son play.

"It gives you some perspective," Lantz said. "Watching him had a relaxing effect on me."

"It is important to him, it

reminded me that there is more than one game today."

## GAME DAY 2:00 PM

Lantz leaves the soccer game tied a 1-1, and goes to the Lions team meal at the Billingsly Student Center.

It is no stretch to call Lantz superstitious. He, however, prefers to think of his idiosyncrasies as "rituals."

One of the more infamous Lantz superstitions goes something like this: Before an important game early in his coaching career, Lantz found a penny on the sideline. His team won, and now Lantz looks for pennies before each game. Another of Lantz's rituals, the team eats the same meal: steak, pasta, and baked potatoes.

The rituals are important to Lantz and he insists on following them.

"I look for pennies as a ritual to

bring me back into a comfort zone," he said. "My nap, my yard work, eating at the same time, eating the same meal, I do them all."

Lantz said he found pennies on the Lions' practice field earlier in the week.

"It's probably some band member dropping them for me that knows the story, but I don't care," he said.

After the meal, Lantz seems more relaxed.

"I always feel better once I get to the meal," he said. "Seeing everybody has a calming influence on me."

Lantz said the players are relaxed, but they are ready to play.

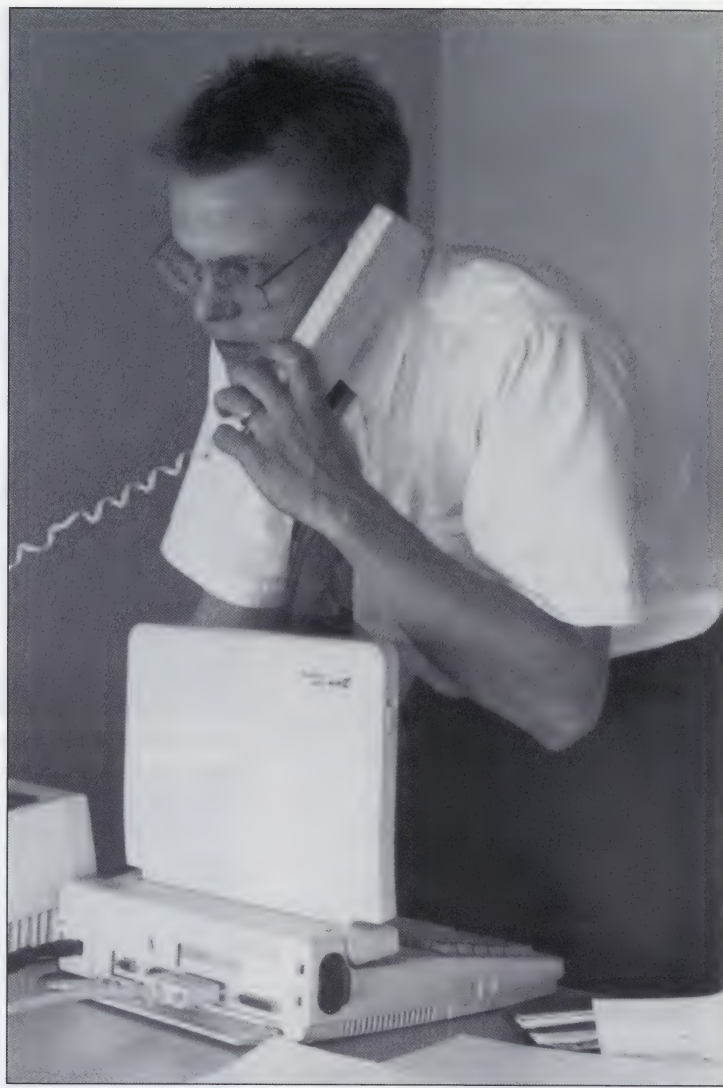
"Our players are, in a way, angry," he said. "All week long we haven't received the respect that they thought they earned."

"This is about as relaxed, however, as I've ever seen them. They aren't loosey-goosey, but they are





Brandenburg Field/Carnie Smith Stadium nearly an hour prior to game time.



PSU Sports Information Director Shawn Ahern answers a last-minute call.

relaxed."

## **GAME DAY 3:00 PM**

While the team gets dressed and taped up, Lantz shuts himself in his office, turns off the lights, and lays down. He doesn't sleep during these interludes, but it, too, is a ritual.

Meanwhile Southern's head trainer, Marty Conklin, and his staff open the training room and begin to tape up all the ankles, shoulders, groins, and hands that have to be completed before the athletes take the field.

Conklin, a devout auto racing fan, points out to any visitor the authentic NASCAR tire, once used by racer Rusty Wallace, that now graces his training room.

"Hey Marty," a Southern football player yells across the room as Conklin is proudly telling the story of the tire, "did Rusty win the day he used that tire?"

"Nope," Conklin replies. "It was probably that tire that cost him the race."

Conklin spots junior lineman Don Beck, a starter, entering the training room and calls him over.

"I'll do you, Don," Conklin said. "That way if I screw up, it won't be any loss to the team."

Conklin is, of course, kidding. As Beck positions himself on the table, Conklin starts to work on his ankle.

It takes about four minutes and three-fourths of a roll on tape for each ankle. Before the night is over, Southern will go through five to seven 32-roll cases of tape.

As Conklin works, he never stops talking. He chats with every player that walks through the door. He calls nearly all of them by name, and most he asks about their families, or the fate of their high school in the previous night's games.

"When we open at three we will

go for a good solid hour until four," Conklin said. "By that time the kids are going to have to have every thing taped, and they will start getting dressed and getting their gear together."

The football game isn't Conklin's only duty of the day. Southern hosted a cross country meet and a soccer game as well.

"We started this morning at eight with cross country," he said. "We had over 400 athletes here and we probably went through 40 or 50 gallons of water and 500 or more cups."

It's days like these the size of Conklin's staff is important.

"I'm fortunate at Missouri Southern, because I have a full-time assistant in Jean Hobbs," he said. "I also have 18 student in my internship program, so we can do a lot of things at one time."

Southern's staff is one of the larger ones in the MIAA, Conklin



said.

"I know Northeast Missouri has a big staff, as does Central Missouri and Southwest Baptist," he said. "There are other schools that have good athletic training rooms, but they don't emphasize the student aspect of it as much as we do."

Once game time comes, Conklin's duties will shift. He stays near the line of scrimmage, watching the game "from the inside out."

"A lot of people, when they watch a football game, just watch the ball," he said. "I approach it a little bit differently, because I know a lot of injuries are going to happen right at the line of scrimmage."

Conklin said he often misses the great plays because he is still watching the collisions at the line of scrimmage.

"I'll hear the crowd roar, and I'll say 'what happened? What happened,'" he said. "A lot of great plays I never see until I see them on film or something."

The *Kansas City Star's* Bob Luder, who covers small college athletics in Missouri and Kansas, leaves the city headed for Pittsburg. Luder makes the trip, because the Southern-PSU match-up has become one of the more heated rivalries in the last five years.

**GAME DAY**  
**4:00 PM** Lantz is up from his nap and is pacing the floor outside his office in Young Gymnasium.

"I'm tightening up," he said.

He chats with a few people that are wandering through the building, mostly players' and coaches' family members.

"You keep telling yourself that it's just a football game," Lantz said. "And in the big scope of the world, it doesn't mean anything. There are a billion Chinese that could care less."

"Even though you know that, it doesn't help."

The buses have arrived outside, and Lantz is ready to get the show on the road.

"Our players are ready," he said.

"We haven't had the respect we thought we deserved, really from day one."

"And maybe we don't, but we don't go around saying it all the time, because you sound like a whiner."



Jon Lantz, former Southern quarterback Matt Cook, and Conklin talk before kickoff.



Lantz gives the team final instructions under the bleachers at Pittsburg State.

**GAME DAY**  
**4:42 PM** Nine coaches, two trainers, two filmers, two bus drivers, and 52 players pull out of the parking lot behind Young Gymnasium, headed for the showdown with Pittsburg State University.

**GAME DAY**  
**5:30 PM** Shawn Ahearn, Pittsburg State's sports information director, struggles to set up his portable computer in the press box at Carnie Smith Stadium/Brandenburg Field. Ahearn can't make the machine print, so he double- and triple-

checks the connections.

"Most of our work is done during the week," Ahearn said. "Game day routine is a matter of last-minute details."

Ahearn and his staff have already prepared the programs, taken requests for media credentials, and compiled the pregame notes for the contest. "I wouldn't call it anticlimactic," he said. "But in a lot of ways, game day is a lot less intense than the two or three days that lead up to it."

The Southern-Pitt State game does bring some added work for Ahearn and his crew.





On Missouri Southern's first play from scrimmage, junior running back Albert Bland carries for 13 yards and a first down near midfield.

"Out phone does ring a little more during the week, and we get the miscellaneous calls about ticket information..."

As if on cue, the phone rings. It's someone wanting reserved seat tickets for the game, now less than two hours away.

"There are still general admission tickets available... No, I can not do that for you... I'm sorry, you'll just have to come to the east ticket window, and that's where you can get tickets," he said.

Hanging up the phone, Ahearn said, "It's a lot of calls just like that. 'Can you reserve two tickets for me.' 'Is the game sold out?' Stuff like that."

This week does bring some strange requests. Including Bob Luder's request for an interview with Southern quarterback Doug Switzer's dad.

"Now there's a strange request for you," he said. "Barry Switzer doesn't have anything to do with Pitt State football."

Once the game starts, Ahearn and his staff are in charge of keeping all the statistical data for the game.

"That will consume most of our energy," he said. "After the game,

we're just here to accommodate the media and act as a liaison for the players and coaches."

Luder has arrived from Kansas City. In the last few years, he has made the Southern-PSU game a

“

**Here,  
(the rivalry) is  
much more  
fierce, this is  
mean.**

**Bob Luder, Kansas City Star**

”

regular stop. It's the rivalry, he said, that makes the contest what it is.

"I think this rates right up there with any of the other small-college rivalries that I see," he said. "I cover Baker-William Jewel, Washburn-Emporia State, Northeast Missouri-Northwest

Missouri.

"The Jewel-Baker rivalry is as much a rivalry as this one, but at those small church-related schools, it is sport for sports sake. Here, it's much more fierce, this is mean."

Luder had story in the day edition of the Star, examining these rivalries.

"Jon Lantz had the greatest quote for my story," he said. "He said every team needs a rivalry, and if you don't have one you need to manufacture one."

"Because the towns are so close, they've pretty much been thrown together and Missouri Southern has sort of made a rivalry out of it because PSU has been up for so long."

With just 27 meetings between the schools, Luder said this was by far the youngest of the area's best rivalries.

"Lantz told me if it weren't for the Pitt State rivalry, Southern would have never won the MIAA championship last season," he said. "Pittsburg State forced Southern to get on their horse and get a team together and succeed."

**GAME DAY  
6:20 PM**

Down on the field, Guns N



Roses "Welcome to the Jungle" blares from the stadium's loudspeakers. Lantz watches as the teams go through their warm-ups.

"From this point on, I'm really, really calm," he said. "It's an old coaching adage, but it is true. The hay is in the barn. If you are ready, you're ready. If not, you go home crying."

Jackson is nearing the end of his warm-up routine.

"I'm ready," he said. "As far as the conditions, you couldn't ask for anything better."

## **GAME DAY** **6:50 PM**

The Lions are waiting. In the final moments before the game, the teams sit quietly in their locker room. Cedric Florence waits with his back to the wall, looking at no one, saying nothing.

Above their heads, the crowd continues to squeeze into the already overflowing stands. Their voices, the stomp of feet up the stairs, and the music blaring from the sound system combine in a cacophony of sound that makes this quiet, solemn place strangely noisy.

Lantz enters, and gives his team a few last words of advice and encouragement. He's no "win one for the Gipper" type, and he never pretends to be. He speaks in calm, collected tones.

"Do all you can to take the crowd out of the game," he said. "Do it with big hits. Do it with big plays, but do it with clean play... Stay composed and stay calm. If something goes wrong early, don't panic. It's a 60-minute game, so don't overreact to anything, good or bad. Keep your heads in the air."

"We've got better thinkers and better players. They've been waiting ten years for this moment. I believe in you and I know you believe in yourselves."

After a team prayer, Lantz says quietly, "let's go."

The Lions throw open the door and burst into the late afternoon sunlight, ready for battle.

From the point the Lions climbed off the bus, they have been at the mercy of the PSU crowd. Given the shadow that had clouded the program since seven players were arrested three weeks before, Lantz knew the PSU fans would be merciless. And they were. From "are you violating your bond by crossing state lines?" to "go home criminals," the Lions

have been under the intense ribbing of the PSU student fans.

Southern's coaching staff expected them to be ruthless, and instructed the players not to react under any circumstances.

Southern takes the field to the chant, "go to jail, go to jail."

## **GAME DAY** **7:01 PM**

In front of 7,500 screaming fans, Eric Jackson tees the ball up, and boots deep into the PSU end zone.

Southern dominates the Gorillas in the first half, taking 14-0 lead on two second quarter touchdowns. The crowd, with the exception of the Southern fans, is silent.

But on the Lion's last possession of the half, punter Branton Dawson's kick is blocked and during the scramble fullback Jared Kaaiohelo reinjures his right knee, knocking him from the game.

PSU hits a 25-yard field goal, taking the score to 14-3 at the half.

Conklin and his crew work on Kaaiohelo, but the prognosis isn't good.

"It's the same knee he injured last year," Conklin said. "We will reevaluate him during half time, but it doesn't look favorable for his return."

At the half, Ahearn and his staff are scrambling to compile the first-half stats. They never could make the portable computer print, so Ahearn had to drag his office's Macintosh computer to the press box.

## **GAME DAY** **8:37 PM**

In the second half, the momentum is all PSU's. The absence of Kaaiohelo stymies the Lion ground game. Southern is forced to the air, and the Gorillas pick off Switzer four times. The Lions never move the ball past midfield, the Gorillas never start any farther back than the PSU 34-yard line.

## **GAME DAY** **9:53 PM**

The final score reads Gorillas 24, Lions 14. PSU has scored 21 points in the second half, handing the Lions their second consecutive loss on the season. The Gorillas regain the Miner's Bowl crown. Lantz shakes hands with PSU coach Chuck Broyles and heads for the locker room. The players, one by one, file silently into the locker room, the disappointment evident on their faces.



## **GAME DAY** **10:15 PM**

Lantz appears physically and emotionally drained.

"We've got to do a better job of playing four quarters of football," he said. "We came back out in the second half with not near enough intensity."

"I knew at half time that we were in real trouble. I looked around the locker room and saw fear in some of those eyes. We were scared that we were going to go out and lose in the second half, so we did."

Kaaiohelo's injury hurt in all aspects of the game, Lantz said.

"He is our spiritual leader," Lantz said. "He's a warrior, and he plays with a warriors spirit."

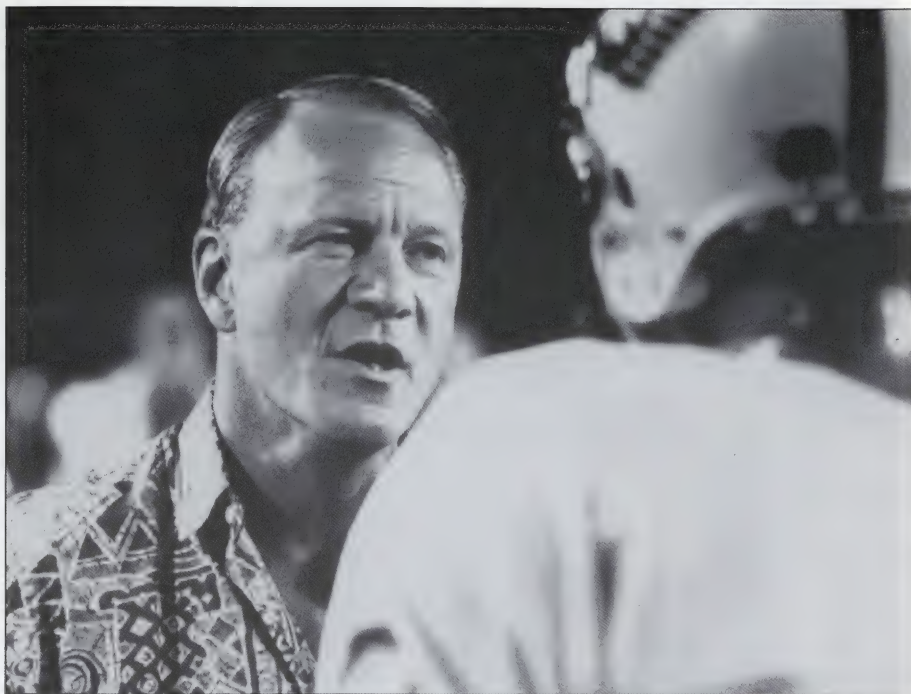
"His injury hurt our ability to play physical football, we weren't able to rush the football at them in the second half, which is a big part of our offense."

Lantz, walking across the now darkened field, turns to look at the scoreboard. It still says PSU 24, Southern 14.

"I'm extremely disappointed, angry, and frustrated, all the things that accompany a loss," he said. "You know, if we win the game, I'm elated."

"It's all or nothing-there is nothing in the middle."

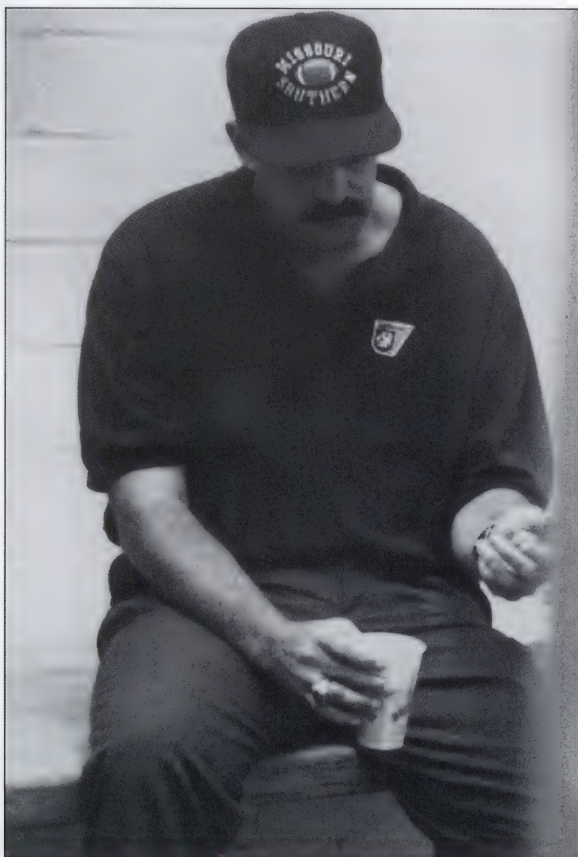




(Left) Southern kicker Eric Jackson warms up for a possible field goal in the fourth quarter.

(Above) Dallas Cowboys head coach Barry Switzer takes time after the game to visit with his son, Doug, on the field.

(Right) A dejected Jon Lantz sits in the locker room just minutes after the final whistle.



## GAME DAY 10:45 PM

But the night wasn't quite over for Jon Lantz or the *Crossroads* staff.

Lantz had said before the game, win or lose, the Lions wouldn't spend one more second in Pittsburg than was necessary. So, after a few post-game comments to the team in the locker

room, Lantz loaded them on the bus and sent them home.

As the team filed onto the bus, Lantz was asked by assistant Kenny Evans how he would get home.

"Oh, I'll catch a ride with Marty (Conklin), or with my wife," Lantz said. "Or, these guys will take me home, right?"

Lantz pointed to us, as we stood nearby, waiting for an interview.

"Uhh, sure Coach," we stammered.

We thought he was kidding.

We were wrong.

Lantz proceeded to the press box for his usual post-game radio show with announcer Don Gross. When he finished, several reporters from the local and regional press fired more questions at him.

After about 40 minutes or so, which included lengthy wait to talk to Darren Prather of KOAM-TV, Lantz was ready to get the heck out of Gorillaville.

As we trailed along behind Lantz back to the visitor's side of the field, it didn't look good. The area was dark, and sure enough, no one had waited. It was just the three of us, surrounded by relieved Gorilla fans who knew they had escaped with the win.

"I hope you men weren't kidding about that ride," Lantz said. "It's a long walk home."

We weren't.

As we made the cross-campus hike to Jeff's car, Lantz put it all in perspective.

"This right here is Division II football at its best," Lantz said. "Do you think there are any Division I coaches in the country that have to bum a ride home from an away game?"

Uhh, nope.

Lantz, to his credit, was pleasant and funny and insightful all the way back to Joplin. Not bad for a guy who was 0-2, lost an 11-point lead in the second half, and then had to stuff himself into the front seat of a Geo Tracker to get home. If we had been in Lantz's shoes, we aren't sure we could have been so jovial.

We talked, both on and off the record, about the College, football, and life. Lantz has a unique and interesting perspective on all three subjects, and we felt privileged to garner his candor and wisdom. Maybe he was just happy not to have to walk the 30 miles home, but Lantz seemed to enjoy our company as well.

As we pulled into the parking lot behind Young Gymnasium, Lantz thanked us for the ride.

"Men, I appreciate it," he said.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the magazine when it comes out."

Anytime, Coach. Anytime.

—CHAD AND JEFF





BY  
ROBERT  
CORN

Men's Basketball Coach

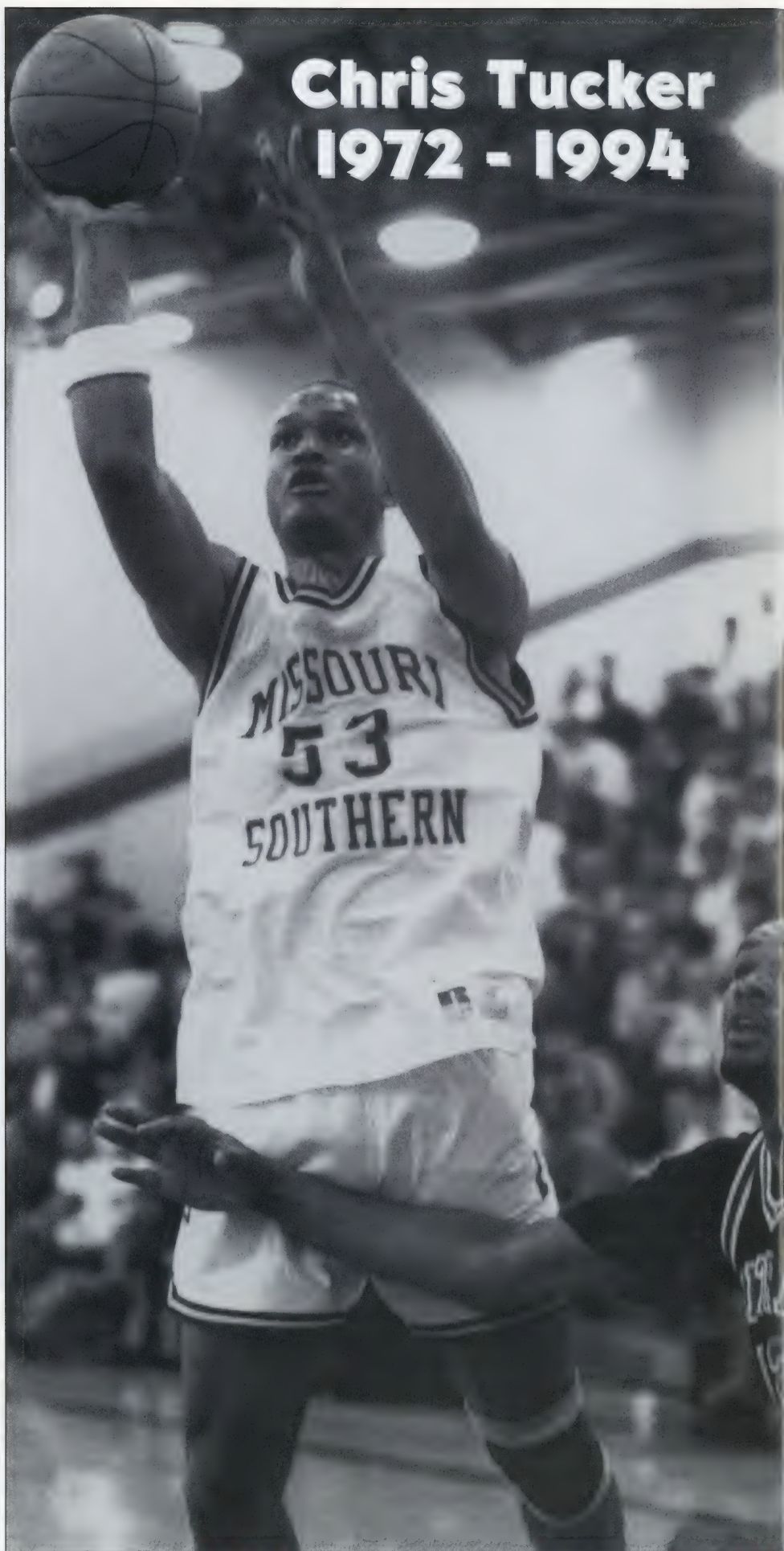
# Tucker gave of self

I have been very fortunate to have had the privilege to know and coach Chris Tucker. He was a quality young man. I remember the 17-year-old kid who came to Missouri Southern and watched him grow and mature into a 21-year-old man. He won several honors while at Missouri Southern. He was named to several all tournament teams and was the most valuable player in a couple of them. He made the All Freshman Team, and was a two time First Team All Conference selection. He was selected to the All Region Team, and topped it all off by being named to the Basketball Gazette All America Team.

Individual honors didn't mean anything to Chris. He was more concerned with the team. Chris was a winner.

The reason Chris developed into

## Chris Tucker 1972 - 1994





a great basketball player is because he was a great person. Chris had a very strong and supportive family. He was never disciplined in his four years at Missouri Southern. He was always early for team meetings, practices, and games. We never got a bad grade check or a call from an instructor. Chris was a perfect gentleman. He was loved and respected by everyone in the Joplin Community.

Chris willingly gave his time for special occasions. He was always one of the first to volunteer. I remember a proud parent showing me a drawing of Chris playing basketball at Missouri Southern that his grade school daughter had done at school. A grade school teacher told my wife, Cindy, that Chris had been to her class a couple of times this past school year. The class worked on reading assignments by following Chris in the papers. He was always helping the other person. He was a special young man.

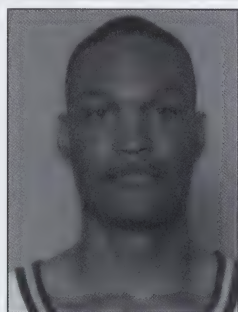
Chris Tucker is one of the finest young men that I have ever been associated with. He always showed a great deal of class in everything he did. The lives he touched are better because of our association with Chris. He was a champion. When you look for role models, Chris Tucker is at the top of the list. I have two sons, Rob and Scott, and I hope they grow up to be like Chris.

“

**I remember a proud parent showing me a drawing of Chris playing basketball at Missouri Southern that his grade school daughter had done at school. A grade school teacher told my wife that Chris had been to her class a couple of times that year. The class worked on reading assignments following Chris in the papers.**

Robert Corn

”



## C H R I S T U C K E R P R O F I L E

(JULY 9, 1994) — Former Missouri Southern State College men's basketball player Chris Tucker has died as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident Friday evening in Joplin. He was pronounced dead at 10:30 p.m. July 8 by doctors at the St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin.

Tucker, who attended Kirby High School in Memphis, Tenn., was also a recipient of Southern's Lionbacker Award of Excellence, as well as a

**All-time leader  
in blocked  
shots (179)**

**Second all-  
time in  
rebounds (952)**

**Eighth all-time  
rebounder in  
MIAA Conference**

**Second team  
*Basketball Gazette*  
All-America**

**Two-time MIAA and  
National Defensive  
Player of the Week.**

## Tucker's Career Stats at Missouri Southern

Year	Average	Reb.Ave.	FG%	FT%	Assists	Blocks	Steals
90-91	5.7	4.6	.513	.622	4	23	12
91-92	8.3	8.3	.542	.696	10	54	12
92-93	16.5	9.5	.581	.744	12	51	16
93-94	21.6	11.8	.515	.601	26	51	25
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>.538</b>	<b>.666</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>65</b>



# New York excels at Southern





BY  
HEIDI  
WEAVER



Senior midfielder Jorge Pereira tries to gain control of the ball in a contest against Rockhurst earlier this season.

PHOTOS BY STUART STOUGH

**J**orge Pereira, senior business major, came to Missouri Southern after spending three years at Iona College in New York. He decided to make the move when his girlfriend

Cassidi Greene, junior sociology major, decided to move back to her home town of Joplin. Greene had been working as a nanny in New York.

"The main reason why I decided to come to Southern was because I wanted to continue our relationship," he said. "It was like a childhood dream to go away, far away, to school and play soccer, so this was my chance."

Greene was nervous at first because she did not know if he would like moving so far away from his family. She said she knew what it felt like to be away from family, friends, and everything that was familiar to you.

"I knew it would be a huge step for him, but I also knew it would be good for him to get out on his own," Greene said.

Pereira currently plays center forward for the Lions soccer team.

"When I decided to make the move to Joplin, I gave the coach a call and told him I was interested in playing for the team," he said.

"I told him I was currently playing for Iona College, and I had played for some nationally ranked clubs.

We worked out a scholarship that was comfortable for the both of us."

Head coach George Greenlee said Pereira is a great addition to the team. He said Pereira brings a different perspective from a different background.

"He gives 100 percent the whole time he is on the field, he improves and works harder with every game," Greenlee said.

"Jorge is a very

unselfish player, he is willing to listen to his coach and teammates."

Teammate Sean Briley, senior economic and finance major, said Pereira is calm, cool, and collected on and off the field.

"I call him the piranha because he's like a little fish everywhere all over the field," Briley said. "He is always trying to score a goal."

Pereira came to the United States from Viseu, Portugal with his family when he was three months old.

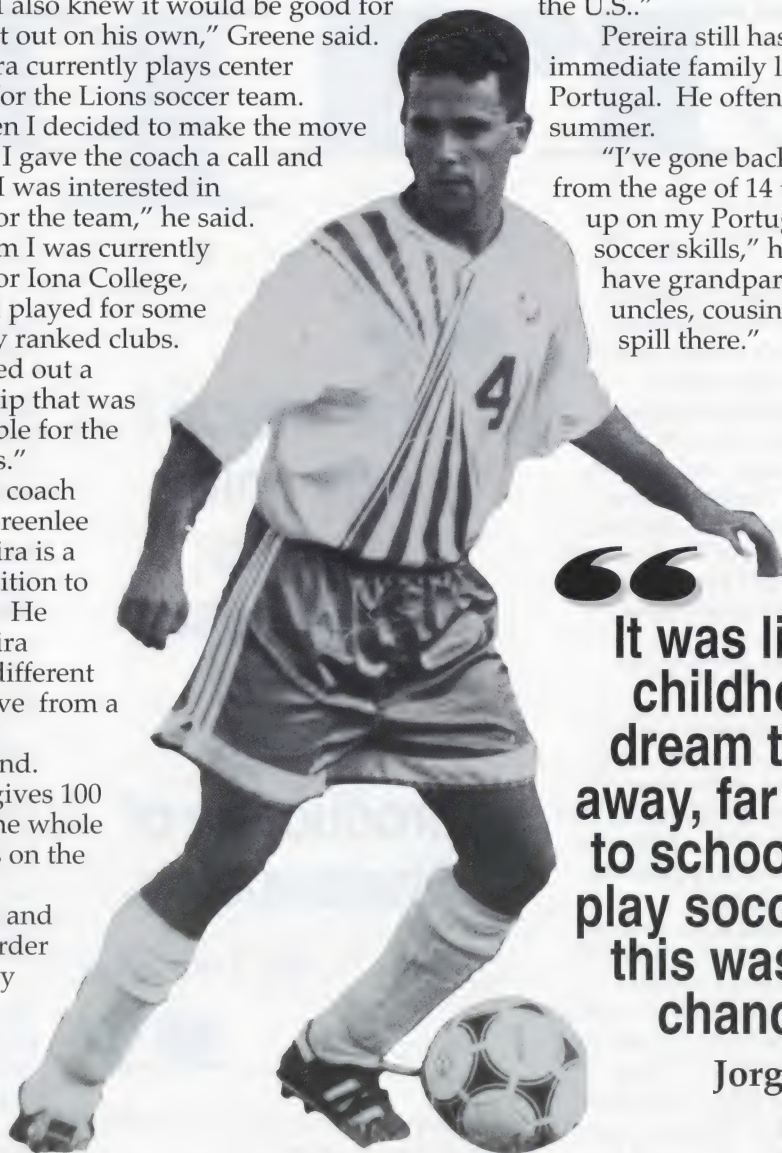
"My parents came here in search of the land of opportunity," Pereira said. "They just wanted more for their family."

Pereira's parents moved to the U.S. in 1970. They wanted to make sure it was the place they wanted their children to grow up.

"They moved to Tarrytown, New York, for about two years," he said. "Then they went back to Portugal to let the family know they would be moving back to the U.S."

Pereira still has all but his immediate family living in Portugal. He often visits in the summer.

"I've gone back to Portugal from the age of 14 to 19 to brush up on my Portuguese and soccer skills," he said. "I still have grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, the whole spill there."



**“It was like a childhood dream to go away, far away, to school and play soccer, so this was my chance.”**

Jorge Pereira



# An England Field(s) trip

B Y H E I D I W E A V E R

**F**or similar, yet different reasons, two members of the Fields family ended up in the same part of England this summer.

Dr. Jay Fields, head of the theater department, and his son Kirby, a senior English major, traveled to England this summer to study the works of Shakespeare.

Kirby attended the Oxford Program through an exchange program between Missouri Southern and Florida State University.

"In the Shakespeare class we spent about two weeks on King Lear, and the rest of the time on Romeo and Juliet, and Measure for Measure," Kirby said. "Measure for Measure is not very popular, but it was really great."

Kirby attended class in the morning Monday through Friday.

"We started class at 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and then we would have a 30 minute break for tea and crumpets," Kirby said. "They really do drink a lot of tea there."

Jay traveled to England one week after his son. He went to England to see as many Shakespeare plays as he could in

“

**The reason I  
was going  
was to  
better myself  
on the  
British  
production of  
Shakespeare.**

Dr. Jay Fields

”

two weeks. He said he decided he should learn more about Shakespeare before the Southern theater department put on this

year's spring production of *Twelfth Night*.

"The reason I was going was to better myself on the British productions of Shakespeare," Jay said. "The British do Shakespeare the best."

Jay met up with his son in Oxford shortly after he arrived in England and they traveled to Stratford.

"In Stratford, we did the whole Shakespeare thing," Jay said. "We saw his birth and death certificate, where he went to school, and his home."

Jay said it was strange that Shakespeare's house was on a main street and then down the road was a McDonalds. They bypassed McDonalds and went to a tea shop called Mistress Quickly's.

"The shop was named after a character in one of Shakespeare's plays, *Merry Wives of Windsor*," Jay said. "Wherever you go in England there is Shakespeare."

Kirby left Stratford to return to class and Jay stayed to see some of the plays in the city.

"After Kirby left, I stayed for



three days and saw *A Midsummers Night's Dream* and *Henry VI*," he said.

Kirby's trip was not all classes, tea, and sightseeing. He also went to some pubs to soak up some of the local culture.

"Without fail we hit the pubs," Kirby said. "The pubs are not like the bars here I think the only similarity is that they both serve beer."

Kirby said he was always told how rude the people were in England, but they turned out to be a lot nicer than he expected.

"I made a lot of friends while I was there," Kirby said. "I even met one girl I still write to."

Jay returned to London where he spent most of his trip. Jay saw *Pericles* at The National Theater and *King Lear* at The Barbican Theater.

"These are two of the major theaters in London," Jay said.

**“ The pubs are not like the bars here. I think the only similarity is that they both serve beer.**

**Kirby Fields**

**”**

"The Barbican is the home of the Royal Shakespeare Company."

Kirby managed to meet up with his dad again in London for a weekend.

"We did everything you could possibly do in the time we were there," Kirby said. "It is more like what didn't we do."

While in London they saw two plays, *Sunset Blvd.* and *An Inspector Calls*.

"*Sunset Blvd.* will open soon in New York starring Glenn Close," Jay said. "*An Inspector Calls* is playing in New York now and has won major Tony Awards."



Dr. Jay Fields and his son, Kirby, spent some of their time in England sightseeing.

One of the most memorable sites for them in London was Westminster Abbey. The Abbey is where several members of the royal family are buried. There is also a place reserved in the Abbey for writers called the Poets Corner.

Kirby said some of the writers are not actually buried there, but they do have memorials.

"It is a church that is absolutely enormous," Kirby said. "It's not so much like a museum. It doesn't have paintings, it has tombs."

After doing everything time would permit in London, Kirby

again returned to Oxford to finish his class.

The Fields' left on the same flight back, but almost did not even make it out of the airport in London.

"When we were checking in our luggage these alarms were going off and I said how nervous they were making me," Jay said. "Then we were sitting in the McDonalds in the airport and two men came in carrying machine guns. I don't know who they were looking for, but they were definitely looking for someone."



# Bonding With Grady

BY JEFFREY SLATTON

**W**ith an average age of 28, Grady might not exactly be considered the new kids on the block in the Joplin scene.

"Never say die," said 32-year-old guitarist Steve Gilbreth. "I started playing music many many years ago and will probably be involved with it my whole life in some form or another."

Other members of the band include Michael Cartright, 28, vocals; Chad Emmert, 28, bass; and Kevin Dager, 24, percussion.

On August 27, Grady released its first cassette, *Smooth Domestic Blend*, on Mercy Records, out of Lawrence, Kan. The release contains 10 original songs and is available from the band for \$7, or at *Stick It In Your Ear* records for \$6.99.

Although the band was told they had only enough studio time to record four songs, Gilbreth said preparation was the key to finishing 10.

"For about two months prior to going to Lawrence, we pounded away on those 10 songs until we had all the kinks worked out," he said. "We went up there with the attitude that we would record as many songs as possible."

To preserve precious studio time, the band recorded the vocals simultaneously with the music.

"Michael sang live with us, but

we added the background vocals later," Gilbreth said.

The project was made possible by Mark Norris, who approached Grady about the opportunity to fund a cassette.

"We would not have been able to put out as good a finished project without (Norris') assistance," Emmert said. "He also designed the cover artwork, and made sure we didn't have to cut any corners."

\* \* \*

Grady has garnered plenty of positive responses in the 11 months

they've played together, band members said.

"People seem to appreciate the variety of music we play," Gilbreth said. "We play a lot of different styles of music."

All four band members gave credit to local band *Walking on Einstein* for giving them a chance to play.

"We wouldn't have gotten to this point without Einstein's support," Cartright said. "They're always asking us to play and taking us to out of town gigs with



Grady bassist Chad Emmert says the group is looking to play more regional gigs this year.



→ Grady vocalist Michael Cartright grooves to "Coffee Time" during a recent performance at Stick It In Your Ear records in Joplin.



them.

"We definitely owe a lot to them."

When comparing Grady's sound to that of others, the band draws a blank.

"We all come from different backgrounds and kinds of music," Gilbreth said. "I really don't know who we sound like."

Cartright has a better idea.

"We're kind of like a lot of the early 1980s post-punk bands," he said.

\* \* \*

Grady's name probably should have significance of some kind, but doesn't.

"Michael just came up with it one day" Gilbreth said. "We had a bunch of names on a list and Grady was voted for the most."

Cartright is also responsible for Smooth Domestic Blend.

"Michael is just our name guy, I guess," Gilbreth said.

\* \* \*

The future for Grady features more playing live, both here and abroad.

"We just want to gig a lot," Cartright said. "Then, if this project [Smooth Domestic Blend] goes well, maybe we will go back and



**Grady entertains the "Stick It..." customers at its September cassette release party.**

record some more.

"But for now, just to play as much as possible."

With Joplin's seemingly hot-cold music scene, Grady is looking to play other places.

"We're looking at hitting all of the major venues in this region," Gilbreth said.

"A lot of people talk about liking to see live music, and there

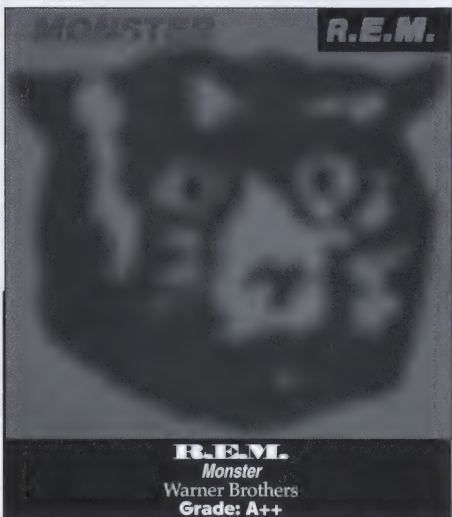
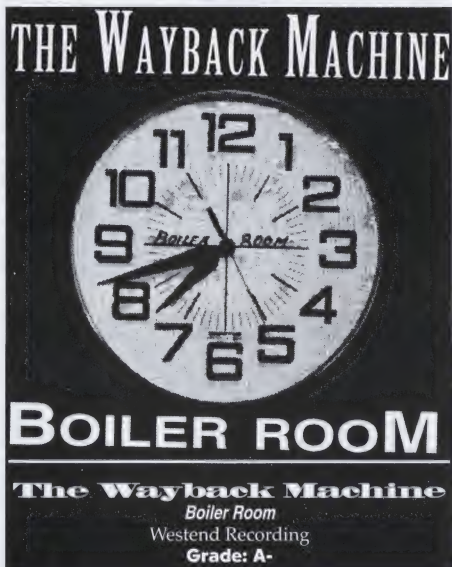
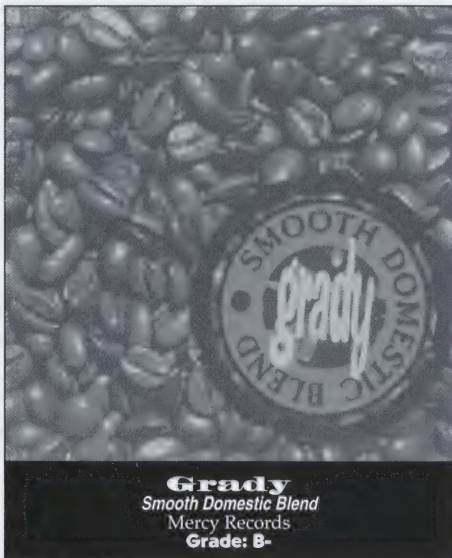
are several good bands with a lot of diversity in this area," he said. "But, people don't support live music here, even free live music."

"A couple of years from now, people will be kicking themselves saying, 'I wish I'd have gone to see Einstein in Joplin,'" Cartright said.

Also appearing on the cassette is Brad McClintock, who played piano and keyboard on a few tracks.



# Three can't-miss releases



**Due out later this year:  
Walking On  
Einstein**

In August, local band Grady released its first cassette (see story page 36). The 10-song release was recorded back in June at Mercy Records in Lawrence, Kan. The band which has been playing locally for about one year, has spent much of that time opening for other local and regional acts.

But that probably will change with the release of Smooth Domestic Blend. First, for a debut, 10 songs is a good effort, and add to that the fact that I've heard of no one coming back from Mercy Records with a bad product.

This cassette is no exception. The release is a mixture of alternative-pop sounds that has drawn some comparisons to bands like R.E.M. Vocalist Michael Cartright's lyrics along with his powerfully deep voice blends well with the rest of the band.

The first track, "Coffee Time," is a stop and go fast-paced number that leaves you wanting more.

A good mixture of up tempo songs ("Coffee Time," "The Barrio," "New Horizons," "Droplight," "Better Off Blind," "Columbia," and "17-Mile Drive."), and ballads ("Not About To," "The Detonation of Mark and Carol," and "Rock-N-Roll Girlfriend Song.") make for a nice package.

A good first effort for Grady that would have received a higher grade if available on compact disc. It's still worth \$7.



**N**ews Flash! Local band Voodoo Hat is now called The Wayback Machine. If you weren't aware, don't feel left out.

"We were watching the Sherman and Mr. Peabody cartoon and took the name from their time machine," said Tim Metcalf, guitarist. Their new release, Boiler Room, is slated for an early November release on compact disc.

"It turned out better than we expected," Metcalf said.

Drummer Tony Ferguson is still the vocalist with Brian Smith on guitar, and Ryan Butler on bass. Boiler Room is a 13 track release featuring some old, some new, but all quality songs.

"Brand New" is fittingly the first track and was written by all four members of the band. Two songs, "King Friday," and "Carousel" date back to Ferguson and Metcalf's days with the Sundogs.

The old songs are a nice addition to Boiler Room and the new tracks are mostly outstanding. The band has already gotten some airplay on Channel Z in Springfield, and should get a lot more with this release on disc.

Buy it and you will not be disappointed.



**A**fter years of waiting for R.E.M. to return to its musical roots, there was much promise of that with the new Monster release on Warner Brothers Records. We were told that R.E.M. would put away the almost silly instruments used at times during Out of Time and Automatic For The People projects.

Well, R.E.M. did put together more of a rock and roll album, but found a new friend in the process, distortion. Add this to Michael Stipe's clean-shaven head and Monster is this fall's must-have disc.

Track one ("What's The Frequency, Kenneth?") has gotten good airplay on MTV and believe it or not even on local radio. It is the title that has drawn the most publicity for it's name taken from a 1986 attack on CBS's Dan Rather in which his assailant repeatedly shouted, "Kenneth, what's the frequency."

Monster goes much deeper than just "Frequency." Trademark R.E.M. lyrics and powerful guitar sounds make for 12 solid songs and what could prove to be their best release yet.

"Crush With Eyeliner," "King of Comedy," "I Don't Sleep, I Dream," "Star 69," "Strange Currencies," "Tongue," "Bang And Blame," (Video No. 2) "I Took Your Name," "Let Me In," "Circus Envy," and "You," make up Monster.

Produced by Scott Litt and R.E.M., Monster is sure to be one that you are sure to wear out your CD player with.

I almost already have.



# American Heirlooms

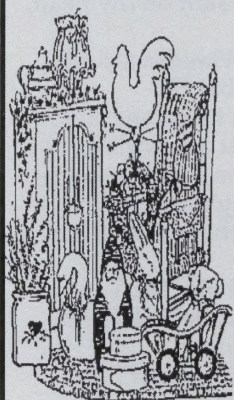
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# Why Ask Why?

By Jeffrey Slatton

## What did you do for vacation?

I realize that summer has long passed. But, with this being the first issue of the semester and the weather starting to turn colder. I feel it time to look back on the glorious summer that it was.

I must be the dumbest human ever.

Why you ask? I shaved my head.

Bald.

Like Mr. Clean.

It was shiny.

It all started back in late May in a tiny metropolis I like to call St. Louis. I had been joking with some friends of mine that I was going to shave my head.

"Shut up," they said.

"You don't have the balls to do it."

Well, challenge my manhood and that's all the inspiration I need. I immediately began the search through the house for that set of clippers my mom used to cut my hair with when I was five. They hadn't been used for many years, but my mother should have been able to remember where she put every little thing at any given place in my life.

So, I couldn't find them. Strike One.

I called my friend, Brian, and told him of my dilemma.

Being the good friend that he is, he responded, "You're stupid. You won't do it."

Oh, but I will.

The next morning I got up and immediately began to map out my strategy for getting my head shaved. What would people think? That I was a skinhead. Or worse, naturally bald.

Around 1 p.m., I finally got the nerve to walk out the front door of the house. I drove to one of the fine

chain hair cutting joints in the metro area and took my place in line behind 15 of the most annoying snot-nosed whippersnappers I've ever come in contact with.

Two hours later, I'm still in line but getting closer.

"Jeffrey," the receptionist calls. "Vanessa will be cutting your hair today."

Vanessa was a slender black woman with neatly styled short hair. "She has no idea what she is about to get herself into," I thought to myself.

So, I sat down in the chair, and

**“What would people think? That I was a skinhead. Or worse, naturally bald.”**

Vanessa carefully put the smock around my neck and covered my up so I wouldn't pick up any hair shrapnel.

"What are we going to do today?" she asked.

"Cut it all off," I responded.

"Oh, you mean you want like a flat top," she inquired.

"No, I want you to take that razor, and cut all of my hair off so

that I can see the skin on my head," I said.

Astonished, Vanessa asked, "You want to be bald?"

I really wasn't sure she was going to do it. But after calling over every stylist in the joint to question my sanity, she began. Swipe No. 1 was right down the center of my head.

I now looked like Mr. T in reverse and it was definitely too late to turn back now.

"Are you a skinhead?" she asked.

"Uh... No. Definitely not," I responded.

I have never seen so much hair laying on the ground at any one time at any one place.

Yes I was bald. Real bald. that captain guy on the new Star Trek.

Except for one thing I hadn't thought about, my head was as pale, ghost white as I have ever seen a head anytime, any place, anywhere.

Eventually, my head got a little tanner and I had to answer the biggest question.

Why?

Was it a bet? No.

What then? Just because.

Actually, it was pride. I was not going to let my dumb friends have the satisfaction of being right. In reality, I guess that makes me the dumb one.

And now, I was just dumb enough to do it again. I mentioned to one of my friends that I just might do it again.

Of course he responded, "You won't do it."

I guess only time will tell as to whether or not I've learned my lesson. I'm even considering doing it again.

"What did you do this summer?"



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